

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 01055

NODIS

FOR ACTING SECRETARY FROM NIMETZ, HANSELL AND CHARGE
THOMPSON. SUGGEST YOU PASS PRESIDENT AND EISENSTADT
ONLY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, MX

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH GOM ON UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS

1. WE MADE AN HOUR AND A HALF PRESENTATION OF ALL
ASPECTS OF POLICY PROPOSALS ON UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS TO
FOREIGN SECRETARY, LABOR SECRETARY AND THEIR SENIOR
STAFFS. WE EMPHASIZED CONSULTATIVE OBJECTIVE AND
TENTATIVE NATURE OF PROPOSALS BUT SAID THAT THE
EXECUTIVE WOULD PROBABLY BE ISSUING A STATEMENT OF
POLICY SHORTLY. THE MEXICANS AFTER A LONG CAUCUS
REACTED IN FORMAL SESSION ONLY TO THOSE ASPECTS OF OUR
PRESENTATION NOT DEALING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT, I.E.
OUR APPRECIATION OF ECONOMIC BASIS OF PROBLEM AND OF
NEED FOR A COOPERATIVE AND HUMANITARIAN APPROACH.

2. THE PRIVATE REACTION THAT EMERGED DURING LUNCH AND
AFTER WAS EXTREMELY NEGATIVE AND WORRIED. FORSEC ROEL
EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER THE "HARD LINE" (ENFORCEMENT)
STRESS IN THE PROPOSALS. HE SAID THAT IF SUCH A
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PROGRAM WERE ANNOUNCED WITHOUT ATTENTION TO LONG RANGE
ECONOMIC ISSUES AND IMPORTANCE OF U.S.-MEXICAN RELATIONS,
IT COULD BRING INTO QUESTION THE SERIOUSNESS AND
PERMANENCE OF THE NEW SPIRIT IN OUR RELATIONS. PRESIDENT
JLP COULD BE SERIOUSLY DAMAGED POLITICALLY AND PSYCHO-
LOGICAL REACTION TO U.S. UNILATERALISM COULD RETURN TO
OLD PATTERNS. FORSEC AND SENIOR STAFF IN SEPARATE

CONVERSATIONS REFERRED TO INEVITABLE PUBLIC REACTION THAT WOULD CAUSE A DETERIORATION IN RELATIONSHIP AND MIGHT AFFECT MEXICAN POLICY IN OTHER AREAS.

3. MEXICANS WERE SLIGHTLY REASSURED BY OUR STATEMENTS INDICATING THAT MASSIVE DEPORTATIONS OF UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS WERE NOT ANTICIPATED. YET THEY NOTED THAT WHEN WE DISCUSSED THE ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS PROPOSALS WE, OUT OF NECESSITY, WERE IMPRECISE. THIS LEADS US TO CONCLUDE THAT ANY ANNOUNCEMENT WITHOUT A FORTHCOMING "ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS" ASPECT WILL ADD FURTHER TO MEXICAN CONCERNS. THEIR MAJOR OBJECTIVE IS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE TO URGE APPROACHES OTHER THEN ENFORCEMENT MEASURES AND TO EMPHASIZE JOINT APPROACHES TO LONG-RANGE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN MEXICO. SECRETARY OF LABOR ASSURED US PRIVATELY THAT THEY ARE NOW MORE WILLING THAN EVER BEFORE TO EXAMINE SERIOUSLY PROGRAMS FOR LABOR INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN MEXICO.

4. IT IS CLEAR THAT FORSEC AND OTHERS DID GET THE MESSAGE THAT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO STEP UP CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT MEASURES ON ILLEGAL ALIENS. THEY DO NOT LIKE THE MESSAGE AND HOPE FOR ITS POSTPONEMENT OR SUBSTANTIAL DILUTION. AT THE VERY LEAST, GREAT SENSITIVITY WILL BE REQUIRED IN PRESENTING THE PROGRAM TO AVOID EXTREMELY ADVERSE REACTION IN MEXICO THAT WOULD JEOPARDIZE THE CONSULTATIONS MECHANISM AND COOPERATIVE APPROACH
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INITIATED BY PRESIDENTS CARTER AND LOPEZ PORTILLO.

5. WE WILL BE SENDING YOU A LONGER REPORT BY SEPARATE CABLE. THOMPSON

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